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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
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RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
RUCPDC/NOAA WASHDC  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

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STATE FOR OES/PCI, OES/STC, OES/SAT, OES/EGC, AND SCA/INS  
STATE FOR STAS  
STATE PASS TO NSF FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
STATE FOR SCA, OES (STAS FEDOROFF); OES/PDAS/RHARNISH; OES/PCI  
STEWART; OES/IHB MURPHY; OES/GTHOMPSON  
STATE FOR EEB/DAVID HENRY  
PASS TO MAS/DAS/JESTRADA  
PASS TO MAC/DAS/HVINEYARD  
PASS TO NSF/MLUECK  
PASS TO NASA/OER (MCINTOSH/WILLIAMS/KAMM)  
SLUG TO DOE/DAS/JMIZROCH; DOE/MGINZBERG  
SLUG TO DOE/ (TCUTLER/GBISCONTI/CGILLESPIE)

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TSPA](#) [PREL](#) [EIND](#) [SENV](#) [KSCA](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: INDIA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES LUNAR ORBITER

REF: NEW DELHI 2641

[1](#)1. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched the Chandrayaan-1 (C-1) lunar orbiter on October 22 at 0622 hours local from its facility on Sriharikota Island in southern Andhra Pradesh, some 90 kilometers north of Chennai. All stages of the launch vehicle appeared to function perfectly, and the satellite reached its initial target altitude approximately 20 minutes after liftoff. C-1 will orbit the earth for the next two weeks, gradually increasing the size of its orbit before maneuvering into a lunar orbit, where it will remain for two years, mapping the moon's surface and conducting other lunar science.

[1](#)2. We witnessed the launch from the control room's viewing gallery, together with Indian dignitaries and representatives of Japan, the U.K., Germany, France, and Denmark. ISRO staff and spectators alike cheered as each stage of the launch took place successfully. Local press hailed the launch and one TV channel labeled it a "historic day for India."

SIMKIN